



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Northwest Regional Office • 3190 160th Avenue SE • Bellevue, Washington 98008-5452 • (425) 649-7000

January 13, 2006

Dear Reviewer:

RE: **State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Determination of Significance  
Interim Action for the Levee Zone of the BNSF Railway Facility, Skykomish, WA**

Ecology is issuing a *Determination of Significance* and would like to receive your comments on the scope of an *Environmental Impact Statement* (EIS) focused on an Interim Action to clean up the Levee Zone of the BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) Facility in Skykomish, Washington. (See enclosures ) The purpose of this action is to identify potential environmental impacts that may occur during, or as a result of, the cleanup.

The Levee Zone includes the area directly west of the Skykomish Bridge on the south side of the South Fork Skykomish River to approximately 700 feet westward along the river and approximately 135 feet upland south from the river's edge. This area also includes 5 residences. Work in the river bed will extend approximately 10-30 feet from the Levee's edge out into the river. (See attached figure.)

A Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) was prepared by BNSF and accepted by Ecology as having enough information to make cleanup decisions. A draft Cleanup Action Plan for the entire site is being written by Ecology and will be ready for public comment along with a Consent Decree and supporting documents in the fall of 2006. The Levee Zone cleanup will start in June of 2006 as an Interim Action under an Order pursuant to the Model Toxics Control Act, and will be consistent with the future Cleanup Action Plan.

An EIS has been determined to be necessary at this site by the Washington State Department of Ecology because the interim action includes excavation and the temporary relocation of people and homes, which will have adverse impacts for the community and the environment. Even though there will be temporary adverse impacts from this action, the overall cleanup will have beneficial results for both the community and the environment. The impacts will be identified in the EIS along with reasonable mitigation measures.

Ecology is accepting comments on the scope of the EIS until **February 3, 2006**. Comments will be accepted in writing and at scoping meetings January 24-26, 2006. (See enclosures ) Comments received will be incorporated into the draft EIS which will be available for public comment along with the Engineering Design Report in spring of 2006.

Thank you for your time in reviewing this information. If you have questions regarding this project of the SEPA comment process, please call me at (425) 649-7209.

Sincerely,

Louise Bardy  
Project Manager

